



Raider Review



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U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Larson

Keeping watch... Sgt. Brandon Mingledorff, a wheeled mechanic assigned to Co. G, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., attached to 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., stands an early morning guard duty shift near Gunner Gate on the perimeter of Camp Taji.

1st BCT, 101st smashes Tarmiya terrorist cell

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers conducted a raid in the Tarmiya, Iraq, region and successfully captured terrorists in the midst of

producing roadside bombs, June 10.

Troop B, 1st Squadron, 33rd Cavalry Regiment, "The Beast", 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), scouts from 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Infantry Div., and various supporting personnel with aviation

support conducted a cordon and search operation in the early, pre-dawn hours at the homes of suspected bomb-makers.

Based on a tip, a foot patrol secured the area before an explosive finding dog team and an explosive ordnance disposal team swept through the area for (go to page 14, roadside)

Core Values: important training

By Col. James Pasquaretti
Commander, 1st BCT

Soldiers of the Raider Brigade: it's June already! Time for another update already.

Things seem to get more busy every month. We are in the midst of a lot of transitions across the battlespace. I

continue to see the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade making a real difference across the board.

One of the more accurate pieces of advice I ever got as an officer was by someone (I can't remember who) that reflected on their experience as a battalion commander. This officer relayed that he spent an inordinate amount of his time on about one percent of his Soldiers with problems. His advice was to remember that 99



percent of the Soldiers are outstanding – tackling every assigned task to the best of their ability and getting things done. I don't think this maxim applies just to the United States Army. I think in every field there are those that cause more problems than they are worth to "the management." The challenge as a commander is to not let the one percent of malcontents and miscreants affect your perception of the other 99 percent.

Why do I bring this up? Because that advice I received long ago rings true here in Iraq. Although I'm one level removed from battalion command, I know that 99 percent of the Raider Brigade Soldiers are doing their best at whatever they're faced with. I see it – both on and off the FOB. To the 99 percent that fall into this category, I thank you for being on the team getting the job done here in Iraq. To the one percent, I'd ask you to look in the mirror and remember you volunteered for this opportunity to serve your country; to support the Constitution of the United States against all enemies – foreign and

domestic; and to follow the orders of the officers appointed over you.

Over the month of June we all will take part in Core Warrior Values Training. Every Soldier in the brigade will receive a briefing and have a discussion on this topic by his or her chain of command. It is in response to alleged transgressions in Haditha that are currently under investigation. I want all Soldiers to take this training seriously – and think about what is reviewed and discussed. The U.S. Army is trusted and welcome across the entire AO RAIDER. We are currently seen as the honest broker by all sides. We must maintain the trust and confidence of the various communities. I'm very proud of how our Soldiers have behaved under the direst circumstances. There is no room for error here – and it's all about leadership, respect and integrity. I know that our Soldiers apply the Army Values in all they do every day.

Periodically our institution comes under fire for the transgressions of a few...and rightfully so. The citizens of (go to page 5, June)

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Happy 231st Birthday, U.S. Army

By Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Wells
Command Sergeant Major, 1st BCT

A few days ago the Army celebrated its 231st birthday. Some things have changed

since June 14, 1775, and some have not.

What has changed:

1. The 1795 Springfield musket fired three rounds per minute. The

M16 musket (I

know it's a rifle, I just like calling it a musket!) fires 90 rounds per minute.

2. A Continental private's pay was \$7 a month. Today, it's \$1,274.

However, a gallon of milk nowadays cost \$4, but back then you got a gallon of milk whenever you got off your ass and milked the cows.

3. The mess wagon used to serve beef, beans and hard tack. Now it serves ice cream and smoothies.

4. A Soldier used to lace his boots. Now he can buy unauthorized, tulip wearing boots that zips up the side.



Family housing then.



Family housing now.



Tanks then.



Tanks now.

What hasn't changed:

1. Weight of personal weapon. The 1795 model Springfield Arsenal Musket was the first official U.S. Army firearm. The smooth bore muzzle loader weighed in at a hefty 9 lbs. Our modernized M16 Musket with a thirty round magazine weighs in at a meager 8.79 pounds. (By the way; the Infantry Insignia is crossed

muskets, not crossed rifles).

2. It's still not a physical impossibility for a Soldier to carry too much ammo.

3. When a horse or the tank can't get you there; you march. Soldiers never, ever walk; we always march.

4. It took the Continental Army Soldier six months to DX boots. (go to page 12, *Soldiers*)

There is no greater sacrifice...



Spc. Ronald W. Gebur

Oct. 2, 1982-May 13, 2006

Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

1st Lt. Ryan Travis Sanders

Sept. 27, 1978-June 4, 2006

Company D, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment

Cpl. Bobby R. West

Sept. 19, 1982-May 30, 2006

Company B, 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry Regiment

Sgt. Daniel Robert Gionet

Jan. 2, 1983-June 4, 2006

HHC, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment

Raider Brigade Chaplain Corner: A few tips for making it to the finish line

By Chaplain (Capt.) John Morales
4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt.

There are many times in our lives where we are taken by the tides of life to shores we do not want to travel. With the continuation of this deployment life moves forward, and when intrusions arise we often desire to shift into a survival mode, the “if I can just make it to Friday...” mindset. Yet, the survival mode does not vaccinate us from the stress, loss, defeat and confusion that arise. In fact, falling prey to the survival mode can increase the loneliness, the pain and feelings of anger that accompany the intrusions of life and deployment.

Though we signed up for the military life, we often tell ourselves -

"I didn't sign up for this..." This feeling develops because we are often overwhelmed at the demands placed on us, it increases because we feel our personal, and professional, resources are pushed beyond their limits. Though often true, an even greater truth arises. A truth birthed in the fact that we do not sail the seas of life alone. A truth founded on the fact that though life was never meant to be a rose garden, there is Someone who will heal and mend the wounds caused by the thorns.

There are strategies we can apply to our continued time of separation that will make the sailing more navigable, and that will lessen the difficulty caused by the storms of life. Strategies, when tapped, enable us to continue this marathon race, and finish it well. Reasonably applied they can lead to stamina, hope, strength and

Camp Taji's Warrior Chapel church services

Saturday

Seventh-Day Adventist - 10:30 a.m.

Sunday

Liturgical Protestant - 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass - 10:00 a.m.

Traditional Protestant - 11:30 a.m.

Latter-Day Saints - 2 p.m.

Contemporary Protestant - 6 p.m.

increase in all areas of life. Mark Atteberry in his book “Walking with God on the Road You **Never** Wanted to Travel” mentions some, and I humbly pass on to you:

1. Travel with a friend God never intends us to walk or carry our

(go to page 5, stay)

Macedonians reload with new platoon

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

As the war on terror continues many countries around the world support the efforts of Coalition forces in Iraq helping the Iraqi Security Forces fight against terrorists.

Macedonia recently renewed its support in the fight as the Macedonian Ranger Platoon transferred

authority to the Macedonian “Wolves” Special Forces Platoon in a ceremony on June 7.

The Macedonian Ranger Platoon leaves Iraq after completing 270 combat patrols, two medical operations, saving the lives of numerous local nationals and capturing terrorist weapons and weapons systems.

“The outgoing Macedonian Ranger (go to page 7, platoon) —



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Soldiers from the Macedonian Ranger Platoon (left) stand and salute during their national anthem before handing over control of their area of operation east of the Tigris River to the incoming Macedonian Special Forces Platoon (right) on June 7.

June is the time of transistion for 1 BCT

————— (continued from page 2)

our nation deserve our best every day by every Soldier. It is a tough standard, but it is one we must hold ourselves to. This is why every Soldier will undergo this training. It is simply some refresher training – and it comes at a good time for us given we are at the half-way point. I trust you to do the right thing when faced with a tough situation. Personally, I’ve seen the shock in the faces of Soldiers that have lost a buddy (or buddies) within an hour of the AIF attack. Our Soldiers that have faced this situation have continued to perform in accordance with our values and the Geneva Convention.

June will also be the month that we will turn over responsibility for a good portion of our area of responsibility to the 9th Iraqi Army Division. This will

be a great day for Iraq – and for the 9th Division. I want to thank all the Soldiers that have played a part in getting the 9th Division ready for this important task. The Military Transition Teams have done a fantastic job at the division, brigade and battalion levels. I want to thank the Raider Soldiers that have augmented the MiTTs. The 7-10 Cav, 1-66 Armor and 4-42 FA have all done a super job through partnership alignments. I’ve seen countless examples of combined operations where Soldiers are showing the Iraqi army “what right looks like.” Job well done. CSM Wells has been spending about eight hours a day, six days a week on the revalidation training lane. Patrols are going through this lane to be revalidated on the basic skills necessary to succeed in this

environment. PCC/PCIs, patrol preparation, counter IED techniques, first aide, detainee handling and night operations are part of the training lane. Every patrol receives a thorough debrief – and are better off for it. One patrol claimed it helped them find a secondary IED the day after their training. I want to thank CSM Wells for running this lane. Our Soldiers are better off for it.

Finally, we’re at the half way point in this deployment. Continue to treat every day as a new one – don’t assume today will be just like yesterday. It will keep you on your toes as you accomplish the mission.

OK – that’s about all for now. Keep up the great work. I’m very proud of you.

Colonel Jim Pasquarette
Raider 6

Stay positive, focused and enjoy time

————— (continued from page 4)

burdens alone. Two can bear up under what trips up one.

2. Stay Positive this is not “pie in the sky” view of life, but a deep conviction that where ever we go, however far we go good comes. If you search for good, you will find it.

3. Go at God’s Pace slow, reasonable and spiritual approaches work the best. God will not outrace us to the finish line, but will, when needed, carry us instead.

4. Enjoy Every Oasis there is life in the desert. However it comes, whenever it comes and whoever brings it, enjoy and accept it.

5. Expect Detours there are no guarantees in life. Being aware that changes and detours will happen will

lessen the blows and confusion.

6. Keep Your Dreams Alive better things are coming, and whatever goals and dreams you have go for them and enjoy the ride getting there.

As Solomon reminds us, in Ecclesiastes chapters 11 and 12:

“Oh, how sweet the light of day...don’t take a single day for granted. You...be happy...and let your hearts give you joy in the days of your youth...banish anxiety from your heart and cast off all the trouble of your body...the last and final word is this: fear God. Do what He tells you...that’s it.”

In the 1970s a rock group named Kansas wrote a song called “Carry On,” in it they detailed the need to persevere in life and under the weight

of life’s travails. Though tears and frustration come in the evening, joy comes in the morning. One memorable line is this “carry on my wayward son, there will be peace when you are done, lay your weary head to rest, don’t you cry no more.”

As we move into the summer months this deployment is half-way done, with many things to come, but the gist of it all is this- life may not have given us all we ask for or want, but God does and will, out of His extensive resources and loving kindness give us all we need to run this race, and finish it well.

We may not want to run it, but run it we will and successfully at that. Godspeed, and see you at the finish line.

Husseniya Fire Department holds grand opening for new station

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The grand opening of the Husseniya Fire Department was held June 3 in Husseniya, Iraq, as part of an ongoing effort by the Iraqi army and Multi-National Division-Baghdad Soldiers to improve fire protection services to the people of the Baghdad region.

Firefighters, who trained in Baghdad and Bahrain, stood in front of their fire engines and water trucks as Sheik Mohan, Husseniya Qada chairman, spoke to those in attendance at the exciting event for the people of the region.

“This helps make a good relationship between the United States and the Iraqi people,” said Mohan. “Before we had a small fire department for the last three years, but it wasn’t very good for a big city.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Firefighters at the new fire station in Husseniya stand in front of their engines outside the station. This new million dollar station replaced the old station that lacked facilities and equipment.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., speaks to Sheik Mohan and several officials and firemen in attendance at the grand opening of the new Husseniya Fire Department on June 3. The fire department is part of a project to provide all of the sectors in and around Baghdad with fire departments for the safety of the people.

There was no equipment or vehicles.”

The fire department has already started providing protection to the city. Last week a car bomb exploded in the city and the fire department extinguished the wreckage. The local Iraqi army is also available to provide them with help said Maj. Mahoud Ali, commander, 5th Special Troops Company, 1st Mechanized Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div.

“We will always provide support,” he said. “They have their own security, but we can help them if they need it.”

Maj. Rifat Nashad, regional fire department chief, also spoke to the opening ceremony attendees and gave a tour of the facility. The fire

engines and water trucks came from the main fire department facilities in Baghdad.

“It was a fantastic event for the Iraqi people, especially the people in Husseniya,” said Lt. Col. John Cross, commander, 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Bde. Combat Team, 4th Infantry Div. “I told the firefighters that we are brothers, even though I am a Soldier and they are firemen, we have the same goal: to take care of the people. I’m proud to see them in uniform and this beautiful station.”

Approximately 70 firefighters will work out of the new station in Husseniya. Citizens can call 115 on their cell phones to report emergencies.

Members of Congress visit Taji

By Maj. David Olson
1st BCT PAO

Four members of the U.S. Congress visited the 9th Iraqi Army Division headquarters to receive a briefing on the readiness of the Iraqi army at Camp Taji north of Baghdad June 3.

Representatives John Kline (R-MN), Bob Etheridge (D-NC), Michael Conaway (R-TX) and Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam) spent several hours visiting the Iraqi army headquarters to receive a briefing from Iraqi army Maj. Gen. Ayoub Bashar, commander, 9th IA Div., followed by a question and answer session.

Each congressional representative thanked Bashar for the briefing during the question and answer portion following his presentation.

Etheridge asked, "how can we help you with logistics?" Logistics was one of the principal issues the Iraqi army is working through.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Capt. Adam Rasmussen, logistics officer, 1st STB, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., who is augmenting the 9th IA Div. Military Transition Team as an engineer, meets with U.S. Congressman John Kline (R-MN) at Camp Taji, June 3 to discuss the readiness of the Iraqi army. Rasmussen hails from the International Falls, Minn., area.

Bashar explained, "We need technology. We also need spare parts for our equipment." The Iraqi army is currently putting together a national maintenance contract which will provide a system for procuring spare parts for the entire fleet of military

vehicles and equipment including the maintenance personnel to maintain the equipment. However, the contract and the system take time to establish and implement.

After the meeting, Col.
(go to page 8, readiness)

Platoon leaves with 270 combat patrols

—(continued from page 4) Platoon has shown superb professionalism, tactical experience and have proven to be masters of non-lethal operations," said Maj. Jessie Robinson, executive officer, 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. "The contribution

Macedonia has made to the war is immeasurable."

Italian army Brig. Gen. Pier Paolo Lunelli, Multi-National Forces-Iraq deputy chief of staff for Coalition operations, attended the ceremony thanking the Macedonians for their service.

The Wolves will face many challenges here as

Robinson welcomed them in his speech.

"To the incoming platoon, we will require a lot of you," he said. "The enemy will challenge you, but through your professionalism and leadership within your organization, you will strip away his support, engage, capture or kill any terrorists

operating within your area and continue to earn the trust of the people."

Macedonian Ranger Platoon outgoing executive officer, Capt. Dragan Maksimovski, worked with the incoming unit and wishes them well.

"They looked good," he said. "They will do just as well if not better than us."

Iraqi tells scary tell of abduction

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

A leisurely afternoon for one local Iraqi man turned into a night of terror at the hands of terrorists, only to end in salvation in the form of rescue by Coalition and Iraqi forces.

Hamed (not his real name), a 50-year-old administrator for the Ministry of the Interior, recalls his abduction and torture by terrorists on the evening of May 20.

The ordeal began as Hamed drank tea with a friend at a sandwich shop. Two vehicles approached and several masked men armed with AK-47s and pistols stormed out and accosted Hamed.

"They threw me in a car and covered my head with a cloth," he said. "Then they forced me to ride with my head between my knees with a pistol at the back of my head."

Hamed recalls riding for awhile towards Baghdad, making several turns. As he rode with the terrorists, they cursed him, told him they had been watching him for a long time and they knew he worked for the Iraqi government.

"They had accents like they were Iraqis from Ramadi or maybe Fallujah. One of them sounded like he may have been Syrian," said Hamed. "They took my wallet and looked at my ID and said I was an informer about bombs. I told them I was just an administrator of licenses."

Hamed recounted being taken to a house and having his hands bound before being beaten severely on his back with what he thought was a power cable and kicked in his sides and chest. Still blindfolded, the terrorists questioned him and continued to beat him.

As the hours went by, the beating and questions continued. Hamed said he lost all hope and knew he was going to die. One of the men spoke on a cell phone and called for a car.

Another prepared a camera to film his execution. One of them told Hamed that they would kill him and then call his family and blackmail them for \$20,000.

Meanwhile, outside the farmhouse where Hamed was being tortured, a patrol from 1st Mechanized Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, conducted a dismounted movement-to-contact patrol when they spotted a car coming down the road in front of them.

"Anything moving around after dark is considered a target of opportunity, eligible to be searched," said 1st Sgt. John McFarlane, team first sergeant, Military Transition Team. "We observed a vehicle within our target area turn down a remote road and turn its lights off; suspicious behavior that definitely made it searchable."

The unit shifted into blocking and over watch formations before stopping the car and pulling the occupants out for questioning.
(go to page 12, patrol)

Readiness of Iraqi army discussed

— (continued from page 7)
James Pasquarette, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, added some insights for the guests.

"The 9th Iraqi Army Division has made great progress," Pasquarette said. "We've turned over (a large portion of the area of operations) to the 9th IA Div. With the sectarian violence in the country,

there is no Sunni – Shi'a issues in this unit. It's not a Shi'a – Sunni thing."

Bashar agreed. "My 1st Brigade commander is Shi'a. My 2nd Brigade commander is Sunni. It's Iraq first... we are united."

Overall, the visit was a success and these legislative representatives departed with a better understanding on the readiness of the Iraqi army.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Maj. Bill Taylor, 1st Mech. Bde., 9th IA Div., Military Transition Team chief, talks with U.S. Congressmen Bob Etheridge (D-NC) and John Kline (R-MN) at Camp Taji, June 3.

Distinguished visitor participates in Tarmiya city council opening

By Maj. David Olson
1st BCT PAO

The U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Business Transformation participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the Tarmiya Qada Building north of Baghdad June 2 and to see other reconstruction projects in the city.

Paul Brinkley, the DUSD BT, and Sheik Saeed Jassim, the Qada chairman, collectively used a pair of scissors to cut the green and purple ribbon to open the city council building and then proceeded to visit the medical clinic and the youth center to conduct an economic assessment on the progress the city is undergoing.

After the project tour, Brinkley spoke with Sheik Jassim at length over lunch at the Qada Building with Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division and Maj. Herb Joliat, the civil military officer with the 1st BCT, who facilitates the reconstruction projects.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Paul Brinkley, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Business Transformation, discusses infrastructure projects with Maj. Herb Joliat, civil military officer, 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., in the Tarmiya Qada Building, June 2. Brinkley also participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony earlier in the day to mark the official opening.

Sheik Jassim fielded questions from Brinkley on the economy and security.

"We have food. The only thing we can't afford is the water," Jassim said. "By the end of July, the water line project from the Khark Water Treatment Plant will be complete."

The KWTP will provide fresh drinking water for the citizens of Tarmiya.

Col. Pasquarette provided a summary of recent events for the senior defense department official.

Before the military operation to reestablish civil control of Tarmiya, the city was a hotbed of terrorist activity with many murders, kidnappings, small arms fire and road-side bomb

attacks taking place. The Iraqi police station was a frequent target of terrorist attacks reducing the large police force to 20 officers and the citizens were intimidated.

"Before we came into Tarmiya, we thought the citizens were actively or at least passively supporting the terrorists. No one would volunteer to become a policeman," Pasquarette explained. "There was only one squad of Iraqi soldiers on top of the Iraqi police station to help provide security.

"On 25 March, we came into the city, set-up a security barrier and the insurgents left," Pasquarette continued. "We were wrong

about the citizens; they didn't like the terrorists any more than we do. Now they are happy with the security situation and when we helped organize an Iraqi police recruiting campaign, over 2,000 citizens of Tarmiya volunteered."

Brinkley made some economic observations.

"Iraq must develop economically. The Department of Defense can not replace the economy with anything until the people can trust each other and they can work together."

Brinkley asked Maj. Joliat some questions about the reconstruction effort. One question was how to change funding and Joliat responded, "We need to raise the dollar limit for the Commander's Emergency Response Program funds."

The \$200,000 limit is too restrictive, because CERP funds are the most responsive and versatile to this situation with the quickest turn around time to get projects completed.

Overall, the visit was a success and Brinkley received a good perspective on reconstruction projects in the 1st BCT area of operations.

Raiders, Macedonians help out locals with Medical Operation

By Spc. C. Terrell Turner
Staff Writer

The Macedonian Ranger Platoon held a medical operation for community residents in Gummyria, Iraq, recently.

In order to provide medical care to the local nationals in their area of operation, the Macedonian Rangers sponsored their second medical operation at the Al Falah School with the support of 1st Battalion, 66th Armor Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

"We did one before in a different village," said Capt. Dragam Maksimovski, executive officer, MRP. "It went good. We talked to the people here and they said they needed medicines. So we talked to intel and operations at 1-66, they said no problem and to tell them when and where."

The Macedonians linked up with the 5th Special Troops Company, 1st Bde., 9th Iraqi Army Div. to provide security for the operation.

The medical operation was conducted at the Al Falah Primary School, which is the name of the school's morning shift, while the afternoon shift is known as Mawrdi Primary School.

The medical personnel were on site treating many various ailments including, "tooth aches, infections, colds, rashes, asthma, and anemia, but not too many drastic injuries."



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

1st Lt. Saibatu Mansaray, physician's assistant, Co. C, 4th Spt. Bn., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., talks to a local national through a translator about her sick child at a medical operation in the Gummyria, Iraq, region recently. Almost 200 people showed up for the event.

said 2nd Lt. Stephen Sarnocinski, medical platoon leader, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 66th AR.

Officials at the school also received help from the community and appreciated the medical help from Coalition forces.

"God willing this will help the community," said Khluad Majeed, school headmistress. "Our main problem here is water and electricity, but I like seeing the Iraqi army here keeping people safe."

Almost 200 people received care during the event.

"It went well, it was a good day," said 1st Lt. Saibatu Mansaray, physician's assistant, Co. C, 4th Support Battalion, 1st BCT. "We saw a lot of muscular and skeletal pain, and diarrhea from the people."

The MRP works with translators that are crucial to their missions.

"We have a translator who speaks Arabic and Macedonian, so that helps a lot, especially when we don't have an English to Arabic translator," said Maksimovski. "There's five or six of us that speak English and we also learn some Arabic phrases here and there from the Iraqis we work with."

Iraqi soldiers at the event also felt good about helping the community.

"These people don't have good medical care. This is a good opportunity to show we care," said Lt. Khalid Mohammed, squad leader, 5th STC, 1st Bde., 9th IA Div.

This is the last medical operation to be conducted by the Macedonians. This unit plans to redeploy soon and be replaced by another unit from that country.

Iraqi army soars high assuming area of MND-B responsibility

By Sgt. 1st Class Brent Hunt
Editor, Raider Review

The Iraqi army soared high as the 2nd Tank Brigade, 9th Iraqi Army Division, prepared to take responsibility of more than 150 square kilometers of operational area during a ceremony on Camp Taji.

The 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div., assumed responsibility of the Saab al Bour and the surrounding region, which is an area north of Baghdad, from the 7th Squadron, 10th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division.

The ceremony showcased the pride Iraqi soldiers have in their brigade and the arsenal of tanks and BMPs they use as they continue the nations fight for freedom against anti-Iraqi forces. Everyday Iraqi forces assume more and more area of responsibility as the Iraqi army stands up and U.S. forces begin to shrink their footprint in Iraq.

"This young division has already achieved much," said Iraqi army Maj. Gen. Ayoub Bashar, commander of the 9th IA Div. "The soldiers are very proficient on their tanks, BMPs and their love for Iraq.

"The division is here to keep Iraq safe." Bashar added. "I congratulate you [the 2nd Tank Bde.] and recommend your duty is your first goal, which is to protect Iraq's women and children. Also, to give the



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander, 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div., gives control a portion of his area of responsibility to Maj. Gen. Ayoub Bashar, commander, 9th IA Div., during a transfer of authority ceremony on Camp Taji recently. The 2nd Tank Bde., 9th IA Div., took control of the Saab al Bour and Hour al Bash areas.

terrorists a painful lesson which will force them to leave this area or be killed."

The Ministry of Defense formed the 2nd Tank Bde. on Oct. 14, 2005.

"...protect Iraq's women and children. Also, to give the terrorists a painful lesson which will force them to leave this area or be killed."

-Maj. Gen. Ayoub Bashar

The brigade is conducting combat operations aimed at fighting terrorism and protecting vital facilities in the region. In addition, the brigade also mans traffic control points on the roads leading to Baghdad to isolate

and identify the enemy and secure the main and secondary roads.

The 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt., has been partnered with the 2nd Tank Bde. since January 2006.

"It is an honor to be here today to pass a large amount of responsibility of 7-10's area to the 2nd Brigade," said Lt. Col. Dave Thompson, commander of the 7th Sqdn., 10th Cav. Regt. "We have fought for four months together to provide security for the Iraqi people.

"The 2nd brigade leaders are outstanding," Thompson added. "Your T-72s provide enough security to keep Iraq safe. I am proud to be associated with such great soldiers. We will continue this fight with you with the mighty 2nd Brigade, 9th IA Division leading the way."

Patrol helps local man after scary incident

— (continued from page 8)

“They [the occupants] were very scared during the search and when they were separated, their stories didn’t match,” said McFarlane. “But before we could get any further trouble broke out.”

The patrol received direct fire from the palm groves near the road as they questioned the two men. McFarlane recalls the Iraqis he trained for the past several months didn’t need any guidance once the shooting started. Instead, their training took over.

“I didn’t have time to tell the Iraqis to do anything,” he admitted. “We had our sergeant major hit within the first few seconds. The gunfight lasted a minute and a half to two minutes before we pulled back across the road with the wounded.”

During the fight, Hamed was left alone in the house. He heard men talking and saying there were soldiers on a patrol nearby. During the gunfight, Hamed screamed out, but to no response.

“I waited and then I used the wall to scratch at my face and get the hood off my eyes,” he said. “There was no one in the house and I ran outside.”

Hamed saw no one around the house and began to walk down the road. He used a tree to remove the mask that had fallen back over his face and he kicked it behind the tree to avoid being followed.

Continuing to walk down a road with his hands still bound, Hamed saw lights in front of him in the distance and looked behind him to see more lights coming his way. He hid in a ditch at the side of the road.

Hamed saw an American Humvee pass, so he jumped out of the ditch and stood in the road. The second Humvee stopped, and the patrol approached him. Cautious to the possibility of an ambush, the patrol questioned and examined him before taking him to Camp Taji where he was treated for his injuries. He was grateful for his liberators and angry at his captors.

“I thank God, the Iraqi army, the interpreters and the Americans. They saved my life,” said Hamed. “These people, they are not real Muslims, they are really bad guys. There’s no way to describe them.

“They are hurting Iraq and all the people,” Hamed added. “They said that because I work for the government, I should die. They are devils.”

Soldiers are reason Army celebrates

— (continued from page 3)

Today, it stills takes six months to DX a pair of boots.

5. The private always takes the path of least resistance. If the sergeant tells him to clean his weapon he has two choices. Either clean his weapon or find himself on report, or in the old days, get a sharp rap on the head. Keeping his weapon clean is definitely the least resistant, and less painful, path.

6. The resolve of the American Soldier. Finding the bad guys is as hard to do today, if not harder, than

any other war this country’s been through. It takes patience, intel, fire discipline and a lot of ground pounding to find these guys. They are Tulips; delicate little flowers who hide behind the dresses of women. They don’t have the ‘nads for a stand up fight. I do believe the heat has evaporated any ‘nads they may have had. If you think finding the enemy is hard work, try finding an enemy who’s a coward.

It’s the Soldiers who’re fighting the day to day battles, and the Soldiers who’re putting



The reason why the U.S. Army celebrate's its 231st birthday is the accomplishments of the Soldier.

the equipment in the Soldiers hands that’s winning this war. You’re the

reason why the Army is able to celebrate its 231st birthday.

Scenes around the Raider Brigade



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Larson

Soldiers from 1st Bn., 66th AR, train on how to respond to an improvised explosive device attack on Camp Taji. IEDs are the leading cause of combat deaths in Iraq.



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Jordan Maxcey

Spc. Christopher Carson, a communications specialist with Co. B, 1st STB, makes adjustments to the JNN system.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Sgt. Edward Dischinger, Co. A, 1st Bn., 66th AR, serves as the radio operator at the Tarmiya patrol base.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Ross Salwolke

Maj. Gen. J.D. Thurman pays respect to Cpl. Bobby R. West from 1st Bn., 22nd Inf. Regt., at his Memorial Ceremony held at FOB Falcon, June 6.



U.S. Army photo by Maj. David Olson

Staff Sgt. Ismael Hermosillo, a tanker with HHC, 1st Bn., 66th AR, scans his sector on top of an M1114 Humvee during a patrol north of Baghdad.



U.S. Navy photo by Photographer's Mate 1st Class Michael Larson

Sgt. 1st Class Darren Atterbery of 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., launches an RQ-11 Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle from Camp Taji in the early morning hours for a flight to search for insurgents placing improvised explosive devices. The Raven weighs nearly 1.9kg and carries two cameras in its nose assembly for monitoring enemy activity.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Sgt. Ermelindo Malave-Rodriguez, a combat engineer with Co. E, 1st Bn., 66th AR, salutes Col. James Pasquarette, commander, 1st BCT, after receiving the Purple Heart medal during an awards ceremony on Camp Taji.



U.S. Army photo courtesy of 4th Bn., 42nd FA

Pfc. Billy Flores, artilleryman, Btry. B, 4th Bn., 42nd FA Regt., mans the "bridge pillbox" keeping watch on the "lily pad" with his binoculars at Camp Taji.

Roadside bomb making materials found

—(continued from page 1)

bomb-making materials. During the searches of several houses, MND-B Soldiers detained 12 suspected terrorists, found six buried 130mm artillery rounds, two buried 155mm artillery rounds, remote detonators and several AK-47s with ammunition. A completed roadside bomb was found in a search of a vehicle outside one of the houses.

“It went well. Usually we only catch one or two bad guys when we do this. We probably saved some Soldiers today,” said Spc. Dustin Drilling, intelligence analyst, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Bn., 66th AR. “My job today was site exploitation, to make sure we don’t



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

A controlled detonation eliminates several 130mm artillery shells outside the home of a suspected bomb-maker in the Tarmiya, Iraq, region after a 1st BCT and 101st Airborne raid on June 10.

disturb things and we preserve the evidence and document things properly for court.”

The entire operation was handed down and prepared in a swift manner according to Capt. Brad

Frank, battle captain for 1st Bn., 66th AR.

“We like to plan operations a few days out to tie in all the enablers,” he said. “For this mission, our preparation was very short notice. There was about 12 hours from notification to execution.”

Despite this, the mission, a part of Operation Gallant Hurricane, was put together and conducted successfully with no casualties incurred by MND-B Soldiers.

“Beast was extremely flexible,” said Frank. “They adjusted their timeframe and mission set to accomplish the mission. The mission was extremely successful. The tip was 100 percent on and we caught the bad guys red-handed.”

Operating in Iraq since late September, 1st Sqdn.,

33rd Cav. Regt., has been attached to the 4th Inf. Div. since May 1.

“It is a good day anytime we can come out and find a cache like this,” said 1st Sgt. Andre Jackson, first sergeant, Trp. B, 1st Sqdn., 33rd Cav. Regt. “We like coming out and walking around doing dismounted missions.”

Jackson said the 4th Inf. Div. made his Soldiers feel very comfortable since their arrival.

“They take care of us,” he said. “The 1-66 commander and command sergeant major welcomed us and made us feel like part of the team. We feel right at home and we are able to provide dismounted support that they really don’t have, so it’s a good deal.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. C. Terrell Turner

Soldiers from Trp. B, 1st Sqdn., 33rd Cav. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st Airborne Div. (Air Assault), secure confiscated AK-47s and prepares to leave the home of a captured roadside bomb maker after a successful raid in the Tarmiya, Iraq, region, June 10. These 101st Soldiers are currently attached to the 1st Bn., 66th AR., 1st BCT, 4th Inf. Div. and worked successfully together to bring down a local terrorist cell and destroy their weapons.